REMARKS

Double Patenting

Claims 1-8, 13-15, 28 and 29

Regarding Claim 1, this Claim has been amended to recite the following limitations:

> an elongated lubricant vapor source comprising a chamber fluidly communicating with at least a plurality of primary plugs having an interior for supplying lubricant vapor, wherein each of the plurality of primary plugs comprises a drilled hole and two openings for transporting the lubricant vapor; and
>
> the lubricant vapor source comprises a plurality of threaded holes into which the plurality of primary plugs are screwed therein.

The support for the above amendment is found at least on page 10, line 30 – page 12, line 31 of the instant specification. Dependent Claims 2-8, 13-15, 28 and 29, depending from independent Claim 1, have also been amended. Support for the amendments is found at least on page 10, line 30 – page 12, line 31.

Claims 1-8, 13-15, 28 and 29 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over claims 1-10 of Stirniman et al (US 6,613,151, hereinafter "Stirniman") in view of Liehr et al (US 6,487,986, hereinafter "Liehr") and still further in view of Dick et al (US 5,904,958, hereinafter "Dick"). Applicants respectfully submit that the embodiments of the present invention as recited in Claims 1-8, 13-15, 28 and 29 are not rendered obvious by Stirniman in view of Liehr and still further yet in view of Dick for the following reasons.

Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner to independent Claim 1 that recites an apparatus comprising (emphasis added):

> an elongated lubricant vapor source comprising a chamber fluidly communicating with at least a plurality of primary plugs having an interior for supplying lubricant vapor, wherein each of the plurality of primary plugs comprises a drilled hole and two openings for transporting the lubricant vapor; and
>
> the lubricant vapor source comprises a plurality of threaded holes into which the plurality of primary plugs are screwed therein.

Claims 2-8, 13-15, 28 and 29 depend from independent Claim 1 and recite further elements of the claimed invention.

Page 4 of the rejection states "Dick et al shows that it is conventional to screw the plugs into the holes to control the manipulation of the hole openings and thus control the available surface area." Applicants respectfully submit that Dick fails to teach or suggest the elements "chamber fluidly communicating with … primary plugs having an interior for supplying lubricant vapor, wherein each … plugs comprises a drilled hole and two openings for transporting the lubricant vapor; and … a plurality of threaded holes into which the … plugs are screwed," as recited in Claim 1.

Applicants respectfully submit that Dick teaches "[t]he nozzle 48 has an elongate narrow slot opening 60 through which the vaporized coating material flows for deposition onto the substrate. The nozzle 48 includes an adjustment mechanism, described in detail below, for adjusting the width of the elongate slot opening 60" (col. 4 ln. 26-31). Dick continues, "the nozzle 48 is held to the nozzle housing 28 by a nozzle plate 50 shown in FIGS. 2-6. The nozzle plate 50 is bolted to the nozzle housing 28 using bolts 58" (col. 4 ln. 38-40). Dick continues, "[t]o counteract the effects of thermal expansion on the elongate slot opening 60, the nozzle 48 of the present invention includes a plurality of adjustment bolts spaced along the longitudinal extent of the elongate slot opening 60" (col. 5, ln. 27-31). Dick continues, "the adjustment bolts comprise alternating 'push' bolts 52 and 'pull' bolts 54 … [a]s the push bolts 52 are tightened, a closing force is applied to the elongate slot opening 60 … [t]he pull bolts 54 apply opening force to the elongate slot opening 60" (col. 5, ln. 32-41).

Therefore, Applicants understand Dick to teach using a nozzle through which the vaporized coating material flows, and adjusting the opening of the nozzle opening by screwing solid, adjustable plugs to reduce or expand the opening of the nozzle, the adjustable plugs having no fluid communication with the lubricant vapor. As such, Dick fails to teach a "chamber fluidly communicating with … primary plugs having an interior for supplying lubricant vapor, wherein each … plugs comprises a drilled hole and two openings for transporting the lubricant vapor; and … a plurality of threaded holes into which the … plugs are screwed," as recited in Claim 1.

Applicants respectfully submit that Stirniman and/or Liehr, either alone or in combination with Dick, also fail to teach or suggest the elements of a "chamber fluidly communicating with … primary plugs having an interior for supplying lubricant vapor, wherein each … plugs comprises a drilled hole and two openings for transporting the lubricant vapor; and … a plurality

of threaded holes into which the … plugs are screwed," as recited in Claim 1. For these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 1 is not rendered obvious by Stirniman in view of Liehr and still further yet in view of Dick, thereby overcoming the nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection of record. Since Claims 2-8, 13-15, 28 and 29 recite further elements claimed in independent Claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 2-8, 13-15, 28 and 29 are also not rendered obvious by Stirniman in view of Liehr and still further yet in view of Dick. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-8, 13-15, 28 and 29 are allowable.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103

Claims 1-8, 13-15, 28 and 29

Regarding Claim 1, this Claim has been amended to recite the following limitations:

> an elongated lubricant vapor source comprising a chamber fluidly communicating with at least a plurality of primary plugs having an interior for supplying lubricant vapor, wherein each of the plurality of primary plugs comprises a drilled hole and two openings for transporting the lubricant vapor; and
>
> the lubricant vapor source comprises a plurality of threaded holes into which the plurality of primary plugs are screwed therein.

The support for the above amendment is found at least on page 10, line 30 – page 12, line 31 of the instant specification. Dependent Claims 2-8, 13-15, 28 and 29, depending from independent Claim 1, have also been amended. Support for the amendments is found at least on page 10, line 30 – page 12, line 31.

Claims 1-8, 13-15, 28 and 29 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over [Hellig et al (US 5,882,415, hereinafter "Hellig") in view of Liehr et al (US 6,487,986, hereinafter "Liehr")] or over [Hedgcoth (US 6,036,824, hereinafter "Hedgcoth") in view of Liehr] and still further in view of Dick et al (US 5,904,958, hereinafter "Dick"). Applicants respectfully submit that the embodiments of the present invention as recited in Claims 1-8, 13-15, 28 and 29 are not rendered obvious by [Hellig in view of Liehr] or over [Hedgcoth in view of Liehr] and still further in view of Dick for the following reasons.

Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner to independent Claim 1 that recites an apparatus comprising (emphasis added):

> an elongated lubricant vapor source comprising a chamber fluidly communicating with at least a plurality of primary plugs having an interior for supplying lubricant vapor, wherein each of the plurality of primary plugs comprises a drilled hole and two openings for transporting the lubricant vapor; and
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> the lubricant vapor source comprises a plurality of threaded holes into which the plurality of primary plugs are screwed therein.

Claims 2-8, 13-15, 28 and 29 depend from independent Claim 1 and recite further elements of the claimed invention.

Page 8 of the rejection states that "Dick et al shows that it is conventional to screw the plugs into the holes to control the manipulation of the hole openings and thus control the available surface area." Applicants respectfully submit that Dick fails to teach or suggest the elements "chamber fluidly communicating with … primary plugs having an interior for supplying lubricant vapor, wherein each … plugs comprises a drilled hole and two openings for transporting the lubricant vapor; and … a plurality of threaded holes into which the … plugs are screwed," as recited in Claim 1.

Applicants respectfully submit that Dick teaches "[t]he nozzle 48 has an elongate narrow slot opening 60 through which the vaporized coating material flows for deposition onto the substrate. The nozzle 48 includes an adjustment mechanism, described in detail below, for adjusting the width of the elongate slot opening 60" (col. 4 ln. 26-31). Dick continues, "the nozzle 48 is held to the nozzle housing 28 by a nozzle plate 50 shown in FIGS. 2-6. The nozzle plate 50 is bolted to the nozzle housing 28 using bolts 58" (col. 4 ln. 38-40). Dick continues, "[t]o counteract the effects of thermal expansion on the elongate slot opening 60, the nozzle 48 of the present invention includes a plurality of adjustment bolts spaced along the longitudinal extent of the elongate slot opening 60" (col. 5, ln. 27-31). Dick continues, "the adjustment bolts comprise alternating 'push' bolts 52 and 'pull' bolts 54 … [a]s the push bolts 52 are tightened, a closing force is applied to the elongate slot opening 60 … [t]he pull bolts 54 apply opening force to the elongate slot opening 60" (col. 5, ln. 32-41).

Therefore, Applicants understand Dick to teach using a nozzle through which the vaporized coating material flows, and adjusting the opening of the nozzle opening by screwing solid, adjustable plugs to reduce or expand the opening of the nozzle, the adjustable plugs having no fluid communication with the lubricant vapor. As such, Dick fails to teach a "chamber fluidly communicating with … primary plugs having an interior for supplying lubricant vapor, wherein

each … plugs comprises a drilled hole and two openings for transporting the lubricant vapor; and … a plurality of threaded holes into which the … plugs are screwed," as recited in Claim 1.

Applicants respectfully submit that Hellig and/or Hedgcoth and/or Liehr, either alone or in combination with Dick, also fail to teach or suggest the elements of a "chamber fluidly communicating with … primary plugs having an interior for supplying lubricant vapor, wherein each … plugs comprises a drilled hole and two openings for transporting the lubricant vapor; and … a plurality of threaded holes into which the … plugs are screwed," as recited in Claim 1. For these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 1 is not rendered obvious by [Hellig in view of Liehr] or by [Hedgcoth in view of Liehr] and still further yet in view of Dick, thereby overcoming the 35 USC §103(a) rejection of record. Since Claims 2-8, 13-15, 28 and 29 recite further elements claimed in independent Claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 2-8, 13-15, 28 and 29 are also not rendered obvious by [Hellig in view of Liehr] or over [Hedgcoth in view of Liehr] and still further yet in view of Dick. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-8, 13-15, 28 and 29 are allowable.

Conclusion

In view of the above, it is submitted that the Claims are in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested. Allowance of Claims 1-8, 13-15, 28 and 29 at an early date is solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including any extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-4160 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

/Anthony C. Murabito/

Anthony C. Murabito
Registration No. 35,295

Murabito, Hao & Barnes LLP
Two North Market Street
Third Floor
San Jose, California 95113
Telephone: (408) 938-9060
Date: _1-06-10___